



KEY NOTES

e-newsletter of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

August 19, 2010

President Obama signs Star-Spangled Banner coin bill



On August 16, President Barack Obama signed the Star-Spangled Banner Commemorative Coin bill, [H.R. 2097](#), into law. Coin surcharges will provide up to \$8.5 million in matching funds to the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. The law provides for up to 500,000 \$1 silver coins and 100,000 \$5 gold coins to be issued.

The House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 419-1 in 2009 and the U.S. Senate approved with unanimous consent on Aug. 3. The coins will be available Jan. 1, 2012.

Key Bridge to get artistic touch for bicentennial



Members of the Maryland Commission on Public Art, Maryland State Arts Council, Fort McHenry, Maryland Office of Tourism and Maryland Transportation Authority toured the Francis Scott Key Bridge by water and land on Aug. 6 as a prelude to commissioning an installation of public

art at the bridge. The project will enhance the bridge in time for the start of the War of 1812 bicentennial celebrations in June 2012, when a parade of tall ships and other vessels sail under the bridge into Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Water-trail plan to be open for public comment

A draft water-trail plan for the [Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail](#) will be available at www.warof1812.org for public comment at the end of the month. Developed by Environmental Resources Management, the plan has recommendations for improving access, stewardship and interpretive opportunities along the trail that spans the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Please check the site in a few weeks. We welcome your comments!

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Upcoming Events

[The 8th Annual War of 1812 Re-enactment Weekend at Hancock's Resolution](#)

August 21-22, 2010

[Chit-Chat Run - The British are Coming to Washington](#)

August 22, 2010

[Burning of Washington - Walking Tour To Restore A Patriot's Tombstone](#)

August 22, 2010

[The Burning of Washington Guided Bicycle Tour](#)

August 22, 2010

War of 1812 archeology projects

From the summer issue of the Maryland State Highway Administration's Cultural Resources Bulletin [newsletter](#).

Search for the USS SCORPION



The floating headquarters for the project. Image from the Search for the USS SCORPION [blog](#).

This summer underwater archaeologists from the [U.S. Navy](#), the [Maryland State Highway Administration](#) (SHA) and the [Maryland Historical Trust](#) surveyed for Joshua Barney's Chesapeake Flotilla and his flagship, the USS SCORPION, in the Patuxent River near Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. Learn more about the project from the *Search for the USS SCORPION* [blog](#).

Additional surveys and excavations are planned in 2011 and 2012, along with the development of interpretive literature and War of 1812 publications, a web site, and signage.

Battle of Bladensburg survey

SHA archeologists surveyed a portion of the Bladensburg battlefield within Fort Lincoln Cemetery in April. Two musket balls were found along the edge of the cemetery near the District of Columbia line. Additionally, a single piece of lead buckshot (possibly from a "buck-and-ball" musket load) was the only other battle-related artifact recovered. The archeologist are now working with the Historic Preservation Office in Washington D.C. for permission to examine an undisturbed section of land area along the D.C./Maryland line to search for more evidence of the battle.

More information about these projects and others can be found on the Bladensburg Archeology Project [blog](#).

License plate updates



Does it seem like you are seeing more and more of the new standard War of 1812 plates? You are! [MVA](#) reports that more than 100,000 plates have been issued within the first two months since the release of the new design.

[1814 British Invasion of Prince George's County Bus Tour](#)

August 28, 2010

[Dolley at Dumbarton Tours & Lecture](#)

August 28, 2010

[Defenders Day Celebration at Fort Howard Park](#)

September 5, 2010

[Star-Spangled Banner Weekend at Fort McHenry National Monument](#)

September 11-12, 2010

[Stars and Stripes Forever! - An American Vignette](#)

September 13, 2010

[War of 1812 Re-enactment and Encampment and Tavern Night](#)

September 18, 2010

[Fourteenth National War of 1812 Symposium](#)

October 2, 2010

Recent News

[Archaeologists excavate suspected War of 1812 vessel](#), *The Baltimore Sun*, August 10, 2010

[Charles County gets grant for War of 1812 celebration](#), *The Washington Post*, August 5, 2010

['Star-Spangled Banner' coin boosts War of 1812 celebration](#), *Baltimore Business Journal*, August 4, 2010

Read more [news](#).

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

September 1, 2010

Maryland Humanities Council
[Major Grants \(letters of inquiry\)](#)

September 4, 2010

National Archives and Records

According to a [Baltimore Sun article](#) from July 30, 454 vanity plates were sold from June 14 to June 30, an increase compared to the same time period last year. Including vanity plate sales during the month of July, a total of 720 personalized plates featuring the new design have been sold.

Regional Updates

Baltimore City

The [Baltimore National Heritage Area](#) hired Jason Vaughan as the new Trails and Byways Manager. After receiving a masters degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland in 2007, Jason completed an internship with the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Office. As Trails and Byways Manager, Jason will be responsible for the development of new walking trails, the adaptation of new technology to current trails, and the overall maintenance and sustainability of the current trail system. Jason's contact information is: 443-984-3089 or Jason.vaughan@baltimorecity.gov.

Prince George's County

The Town of Bladensburg is developing a "Green Street" for a 0.6-mile section of the Route 450/Annapolis Road corridor to prepare for the upcoming bicentennial commemoration. This road overlaps part of the route of British troops during the Battle of Bladensburg. Several sites clustered along the proposed "Green Street" - including the Bostwick House, Magruder House and Market Masters House – were significant locations during the summer of 1814.

The project incorporates permeable surfaces, energy efficient lighting and advanced storm water management due to the proximity of the roadway to the [Anacostia Watershed](#). It will also provide future jobs and support economic development for Bladensburg. To learn more, visit www.bladensburg.com.

Author opportunities in War of 1812 history

The [U.S. Army Center of Military History](#) seeks historians to write commemorative monographs on the U.S. Army's War of 1812 campaigns. Based chiefly on secondary sources, these campaign studies run up to 60 printed pages (maximum 20,000 words) and include maps, illustrations and suggested readings. They are scheduled to be published on the 200th anniversary of each campaign, from 2012 to 2015. If you are interested, please contact: [Dr. John Maass](#), Historian, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail e-newsletter

The summer issue of the [Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail](#) e-newsletter is now [available online](#). Contact [Suzanne Copping](#) to be added to the distribution list.

Administration National Historical
Publications and Records
Commission

[Publication Subventions](#)

September 15, 2010

Institute of Museum and Library
Services

[American Heritage Preservation
Grants](#)

National Endowment for the
Humanities

[Enduring Questions](#)

Links



[Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial
Commission](#)



[Star-Spangled Banner National
Historic Trail](#)



[Baltimore National Heritage Area](#)

[Eastern Shore 1812 Consortium](#)

[Historic Prince George's](#)

Featured Site



Riversdale House Museum

From the home's south portico, Rosalie Stier Calvert witnessed congreve rockets fired during the Battle of Bladensburg. After the battle, her husband George Calvert and slaves from the plantation helped to bury British soldiers killed during the fight.

4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 (Prince George's County)

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Key Notes is the monthly e-newsletter of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. To include information about your bicentennial planning efforts in future issues, contact [Kate Marks](#).

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